

Common Intake Update June 9, 2008

News and Information for EOHHS Virtual Gateway Common Intake Users



Change in Asset Requirements for DTA Food Stamp Program Asset Requirement Eliminated for Most Households

As of June 9, 2008, the Department of Transitional Assistance has eliminated the asset test for Food Stamp Program (FS) eligibility for most applicants. This change will have a positive impact on many vulnerable Massachusetts households, particularly households with elderly and disabled members, by further simplifying the application process.

Applicants will be relieved of the burden of providing asset information and verifications. FS Providers and Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) staff will no longer have to request and review asset information.

Virtual Gateway providers completing Common Intake applications for FS only or combination applications (such as MassHealth/FS applications) should not request or enter asset information. The asset screens will not appear for households containing a child under 19. However, for adult (age 19 and over) only households, Virtual Gateway providers should bypass asset-related questions by:

- Click on *Save and Continue* at the first asset screen entitled Asset Information
- Next click on *Save and Continue* at the asset screen entitled Closed/Sold Assets Information.

This will bring providers to the Application Confirmation page.

In the future, the asset-related screens will be removed from the Virtual Gateway for adult only households must continue to be asked about assets to determine if the household qualifies, although proof of asset information will not be required.

Certain households with members disqualified for fraud or failure to comply with FSP rules will be required to provide asset information and proofs. In addition, elder (age 60 or over) or disabled households with gross income over 200% of the poverty level will need to give and verify asset information (See chart on the right). These households will be identified by DTA staff as part of the application process.

200% Federal Poverty Level

Household/Assistance Unit Size	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$1702
2	\$2282
3	\$2862
4	\$3442
5	\$4022

6	\$4602
7	\$5182
8	\$5762
For each add'l member	Add \$580

IMPORTANT: Asset Questions STILL Required for Expedited Service

If seeking expedited service, all FS households must continue to be asked about assets to determine if the household qualifies, although proof of asset information will not be required.

Questions or comments? Please call us at 1-866-950-FOOD